

Focus Area 16: Maternal, Infant, and Child Health

Objective 16-9a targets the reduction in primary Cesarean section deliveries among females having first-time low-risk (full-term, singleton, vertex presentation) births to a rate of 15.0 per 100 first-time low-risk births (15.0 percent).

A total of 35,084 primary Cesarean deliveries among females having first-time low-risk births were reported in 2000 at a rate of 20.6 percent based on data extracted from the Birth Statistical Master Files (Figure 16-9a, Table 16-9a). A total of 46,453 primary Cesarean section deliveries were reported in 2005 at a rate of 26.3 percent, a statistically significant increase since 2000. California's primary Cesarean section delivery rates among females having first-time low-risk births are significantly higher than the HP2010 objective of 15.0 percent, and the trend in rates is increasing away from the target.

Data by race and ethnicity show that the highest primary Cesarean delivery rates among females having first-time low-risk births were for African Americans/Blacks (31.6 percent in 2005, a significant increase from 23.1 percent in 2000). The next highest rate in 2005 was found for Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander women (30.3 percent in 2005), followed by Asians (27.6 percent), Multiracial women (27.5 percent), Whites (26.4 percent), Hispanics/Latinos (25.1 percent), and American Indians/Alaska Natives (24.9 percent). This HP2010 objective is not being achieved for females of any racial or ethnic group, and trends in rates are significantly increasing for all groups.

Examined by age of mother, primary Cesarean delivery rates among females having first-time low-risk births were highest for women aged 35 years and older (41.6 percent in 2005, a statistically significant increase from 35.6 percent in 2000), and progressively lower for each younger age group. The HP2010 objective of 15.0 percent was not being achieved for any maternal age group, and the trends in rates were found to be increasing significantly away from the target for all age groups.

For more information on Cesarean births and maternal risk in California, visit the Maternal and Child Health Branch Web site at:

<http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/>

For more information on Healthy People 2010 objective 16-9a please visit:

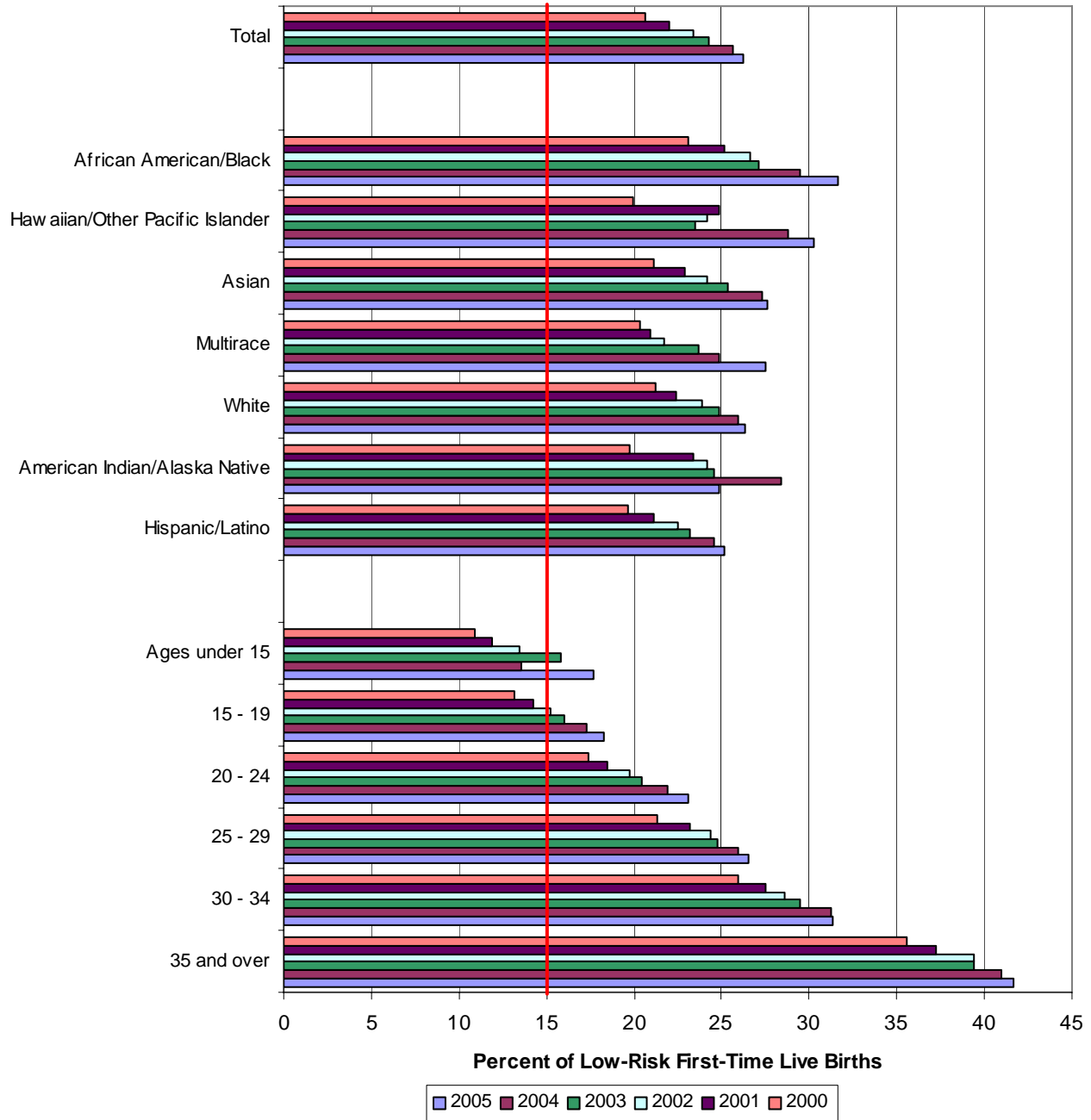
http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/HTML/Volume2/16MICH.htm#_Toc494699661

and

<http://www.healthypeople.gov/Document/html/tracking/od16.htm#obstetcare>

Figure 16-9a
Primary Cesarean Section Deliveries
Among Females Having First-Time Low-Risk Births
California, 2000-2005

Healthy People 2010 objective = 15.0



**Table 16-9a: Primary Cesarean Deliveries Among Females Having First-Time Low-Risk Births
California, 2000-2005**

	2000					2001				
HP2010 Objective 16-9a	Primary C-Sec ¹	Low-Risk Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I. ⁴	Upper C.I. ⁴	Primary C-Sec ¹	Low-Risk Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I. ⁴	Upper C.I. ⁴
Healthy People 2010 Target	15.0					15.0				
Statewide Total	35,084	170,396	20.6	20.4	20.8	37,039	168,178	22.0	21.8	22.2
Race-Ethnicity of Mother										
African American/Black	2,066	8,955	23.1	22.2	23.9	2,159	8,582	25.2	24.2	26.1
American Indian/Alaska Native	101	512	19.7	16.3	23.2	122	521	23.4	19.8	27.1
Asian	4,939	23,391	21.1	20.6	21.6	5,273	23,036	22.9	22.3	23.4
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	124	622	19.9	16.8	23.1	150	603	24.9	21.4	28.3
Hispanic/Latino	14,653	74,675	19.6	19.3	19.9	15,832	75,018	21.1	20.8	21.4
White	12,480	58,714	21.3	20.9	21.6	12,725	56,826	22.4	22.1	22.7
Multirace	486	2,387	20.4	18.7	22.0	515	2,459	20.9	19.3	22.6
Maternal Age Group										
Under 15	66	605	10.9	8.4	13.4	69	579	11.9	9.3	14.6
15 - 19	4,696	35,777	13.1	12.8	13.5	4,885	34,347	14.2	13.9	14.6
20 - 24	8,322	47,739	17.4	17.1	17.8	8,895	48,121	18.5	18.1	18.8
25 - 29	8,553	40,145	21.3	20.9	21.7	9,063	39,149	23.2	22.7	23.6
30 - 34	7,946	30,668	25.9	25.4	26.4	8,463	30,753	27.5	27.0	28.0
35 and over	5,501	15,462	35.6	34.8	36.3	5,664	15,229	37.2	36.4	38.0

SOURCE: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files, 2000-2001.

NOTES: ¹ Primary Cesarean sections among California females giving birth for the first time and having "low-risk" (full-term, singleton, vertex presentation) births.

² Live births among California females giving birth for the first time and having "low-risk" (full term, singleton, vertex presentation) births.

³ Rate per 100 first-time low-risk live births (percent).

⁴ Ninety-five percent confidence interval (95% C.I.).

**Table 16-9a: Primary Cesarean Deliveries Among Females Having First-Time Low-Risk Births, continued
California, 2000-2005**

	2002					2003				
HP2010 Objective 16-9a	Primary C-Sec ¹	Low-Risk Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I. ⁴	Upper C.I. ⁴	Primary C-Sec ¹	Low-Risk Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I. ⁴	Upper C.I. ⁴
Healthy People 2010 Target	15.0					15.0				
Statewide Total	39,545	168,795	23.4	23.2	23.6	42,095	173,393	24.3	24.1	24.5
Race-Ethnicity of Mother										
African American/Black	2,227	8,379	26.6	25.6	27.5	2,265	8,342	27.2	26.2	28.1
American Indian/Alaska Native	127	526	24.1	20.5	27.8	133	542	24.5	20.9	28.2
Asian	5,692	23,504	24.2	23.7	24.8	6,206	24,485	25.3	24.8	25.9
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	156	646	24.1	20.8	27.4	144	612	23.5	20.2	26.9
Hispanic/Latino	16,872	75,090	22.5	22.2	22.8	17,686	76,165	23.2	22.9	23.5
White	13,553	56,656	23.9	23.6	24.3	14,521	58,524	24.8	24.5	25.2
Multirace	565	2,606	21.7	20.1	23.3	647	2,729	23.7	22.1	25.3
Maternal Age Group										
Under 15	68	505	13.5	10.5	16.4	78	494	15.8	12.6	19.0
15 - 19	4,972	32,732	15.2	14.8	15.6	5,150	32,114	16.0	15.6	16.4
20 - 24	9,615	48,617	19.8	19.4	20.1	9,986	48,936	20.4	20.0	20.8
25 - 29	9,600	39,452	24.3	23.9	24.8	10,119	40,813	24.8	24.4	25.2
30 - 34	9,079	31,742	28.6	28.1	29.1	9,975	33,803	29.5	29.0	30.0
35 and over	6,211	15,747	39.4	38.7	40.2	6,787	17,233	39.4	38.7	40.1

SOURCE: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files, 2002-2003.

NOTES: ¹ Primary Cesarean sections among California females giving birth for the first time and having "low-risk" (full-term, singleton, vertex presentation) births.

² Live births among California females giving birth for the first time and having "low-risk" (full term, singleton, vertex presentation) births.

³ Rate per 100 first-time low-risk live births (percent).

⁴ Ninety-five percent confidence interval (95% C.I.).

**Table 16-9a: Primary Cesarean Deliveries Among Females Having First-Time Low-Risk Births, continued
California, 2000-2005**

	2004					2005					2000-2005 Trend ⁵
HP2010 Objective 16-9a	Primary C-Sec ¹	Low-Risk Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I. ⁴	Upper C.I. ⁴	Primary C-Sec ¹	Low-Risk Births ²	Rate ³	Lower C.I. ⁴	Upper C.I. ⁴	
Healthy People 2010 Target	15.0					15.0					
Statewide Total	44,591	173,705	25.7	25.5	25.9	46,453	176,871	26.3	26.0	26.5	Sig. +
Race-Ethnicity of Mother											
African American/Black	2,502	8,485	29.5	28.5	30.5	2,769	8,757	31.6	30.4	32.8	Sig. +
American Indian/Alaska Native	159	559	28.4	24.7	32.2	143	575	24.9	20.8	28.9	Sig. +
Asian	6,616	24,208	27.3	26.8	27.9	6,710	24,272	27.6	27.0	28.3	Sig. +
Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	195	678	28.8	25.4	32.2	210	694	30.3	26.2	34.4	Sig. +
Hispanic/Latino	19,111	77,776	24.6	24.3	24.9	20,465	81,387	25.1	24.8	25.5	Sig. +
White	14,686	56,582	26.0	25.6	26.3	14,692	55,721	26.4	25.9	26.8	Sig. +
Multirace	695	2,799	24.8	23.2	26.4	777	2,827	27.5	25.6	29.4	Sig. +
Maternal Age Group											
Under 15	64	473	13.5	10.4	16.6	102	576	17.7	14.3	21.1	Sig. +
15 - 19	5,589	32,395	17.3	16.8	17.7	6,156	33,758	18.2	17.8	18.7	Sig. +
20 - 24	10,830	49,370	21.9	21.6	22.3	11,858	51,433	23.1	22.6	23.5	Sig. +
25 - 29	10,556	40,766	25.9	25.5	26.3	10,926	41,259	26.5	26.0	27.0	Sig. +
30 - 34	10,340	33,113	31.2	30.7	31.7	10,189	32,490	31.4	30.8	32.0	Sig. +
35 and over	7,212	17,588	41.0	40.3	41.7	7,222	17,355	41.6	40.7	42.6	Sig. +

SOURCE: California Department of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Birth Statistical Master Files, 2004-2005.

- NOTES: ¹ Primary Cesarean sections among California females giving birth for the first time and having "low-risk" (full-term, singleton, vertex presentation) births.
- ² Live births among California females giving birth for the first time and having "low-risk" (full term, singleton, vertex presentation) births.
- ³ Rate per 100 first-time low-risk live births (percent).
- ⁴ Ninety-five percent confidence interval (95% C.I.).
- ⁵ Statistically significant increase (Sig. +).